

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1 – 8 will be active in the application subsequent to entry of this amendment.

Original claims 1, 3 and 4 were rejected on the basis of prior art; claim 2 was indicated to be allowable.

Claims 1 and 4 are above amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which applicants regards as their invention. Claims 6 - 8 are added as directed to preferred aspects of the disclosure.

The sole issue in the current Official Action is the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 4 as being anticipated by GB 1369047. Claim 1 is amended to define a novel and non-obvious process of purifying carbon monoxide, as explained in more detail below.

From a brief review of the above claims it will be apparent that they are directed to a technical field and a technical problem differ the disclosure of Kuniyasu, GB1369047 (hereinafter “Kuniyasu”). Furthermore, the procedures and materials used in the method defined by claims 1-7 of the present invention are not disclosed in Kuniyasu.

The examiner rejected that the claims 1-4 of the present invention do not have novelty by the reason that the removal of carbonyl metal which is contained in exhaust gas is disclosed by Kuniyasu. However, Kuniyasu relates to a method of removing the carbon monoxide gas which is contained in exhaust gas exhausted from automobiles.

On the other hand, the present invention relates to a method of removing metal carbonyl in a high-purity carbon monoxide gas which is used in an etching process in the semiconductor industry etc. This invention does not relate to a method for removing carbon monoxide gas and the claims now under examination reflect this.

As for Kuniyasu a catalyst containing manganese oxide containing, lead oxide, and/or bismuth oxide is used. As disclosed in example 4 of Kuniyasu, the catalyst is a mixture of Mn_2O_3 , Bi_2O_3 , and La_2O_3 . Thus the catalyst of Kuniyasu must contain lead oxide or bismuth oxide as a necessary ingredient in addition to manganese oxide. In Kuniyasu the gas exhausted from automobiles is contacted with the catalyst to *remove* the carbon monoxide gas contained in the exhaust gas. That is, Kuniyasu differs from the present invention in its removal of carbon monoxide gas.

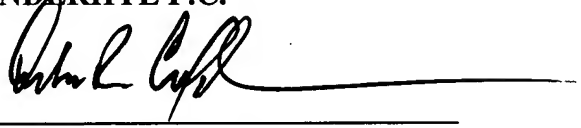
In complete contrast, the present invention is directed to a method for *purifying* carbon monoxide, including the steps of contacting a carbon monoxide gas containing a metal carbonyl with a remover containing manganese sesquioxide as a main component, thereby reacting the metal carbonyl in carbon monoxide with the manganese sesquioxide to remove the metal carbonyl from the carbon monoxide gas. For these reasons it will be apparent the carbon monoxide purifying method of the present invention is completely different from and patentable over the carbon monoxide removal method disclosed in Kuniyasu. Therefore the present invention is both novel and patentable over the disclosure of Kuniyasu.

For the above reasons it is respectfully submitted the claims of this application define patentable subject matter. Reconsideration and allowance are solicited. The examiner is encouraged to contact the undersign if additional information is needed.

Respectfully submitted,

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